

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A threaded container closure assembly, said assembly comprising:

a container neck having an opening;

a closure for said neck, the closure having a base portion and a skirt portion;

a first screw thread on the neck, said first screw thread comprising one or more first thread segments, and a second screw thread on an inner surface of the skirt of the closure, said second screw thread comprising one or more second thread segments define a continuous helical thread path along which said closure travels from a fully disengaged to a fully secured position of the closure on the container neck and being configured to enable a user to secure, remove and resecure the closure into a sealing position on the neck by rotation of the closure on the neck;

a first locking projection on the container neck separate from the first thread segments and a second locking projection on the inner surface of the skirt of the closure separate from the second thread segments, said first and second locking projections being configured to resist unscrewing of the closure from the fully engaged position on the container neck after the closure has been secured or resecured on the container neck until a predetermined unscrewing opening torque is applied;

wherein said first and second locking projections longitudinally overlap the first or the second thread segments when the closure is in the fully engaged

position on the container neck;

the height of said locking projections is such that the radially innermost vertex of the second locking element rides over a radially outermost vertex of the first locking element as the fully secured position is reached; and

the first locking projection is located longitudinally overlapping with and circumferentially spaced from an upper end of a first thread segment, or said second locking projection is located longitudinally overlapping with and circumferentially spaced from a lower end of a second thread segment, whereby the said first or second locking projections define an extension of the thread path defined by the thread segments on the neck or the closure.

2. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein the first and/or second locking projections have sufficient strength to snap over each other without permanent deformation.

3. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1 or 2, wherein for at least one of said locking projections the ratio of the maximum height to the maximum width is at least 0.5.

4. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first and second locking projections are situated near the bottom of the threads when the closure is fully secured on the container.

5. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first thread segments are shorter than said second thread segments.

6. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein there are from 2 to 32 of said first thread segments.

7. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein there are from 4 to 16 of said first thread segments.

8. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1 further comprising mutually engageable elements on the neck and the closure to block or restrict rotation of the closure in an unscrewing direction beyond an intermediate position when the closure is under axial pressure in a direction emerging from a container neck.

9. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein the closure can be moved from a fully released to a fully engaged position on the container neck by a single smooth rotation through 360 degrees or less.

10. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 9, wherein the closure can be moved from a fully released to a fully engaged position on the container neck by a single smooth rotation through 160 degrees or less.

11. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 10, wherein the closure can be moved from a fully released to a fully engaged position on the container neck by a single smooth rotation through 90 degrees or less.

12. (Previously Amended) A container closure assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first and second screw threads have at least four thread starts.

13. (Original) A container closure assembly according to Claim 1, wherein the first and second locking projections are configured such that they are in abutment when the closure is at the fully closed and sealing position on the container neck, and the closure skirt and/or the projections are slightly distorted at said sealing position such that a resilient force is exerted between the projections in abutment to urge the closure into said fully closed and sealing position.